

AMENDMENT A (IN RESPONSE TO PAPER NO. 4
(OFFICE ACTION DATED MAY 22, 2003))

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in this case. In the amendment hereinabove, claims have been amended. Based upon the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that, in conformance with the foregoing amendment, these claims are allowable.

A. Disclosure

The disclosure was cited as being objectionable for having informalities in the form of the appendices. The disclosure has been amended hereinabove by canceling Appendices A and B. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this objection is now moot.

B. §101 Rejection

Claims 6-8, 10, 11, 21-23, 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. (NOTE: Claim 14 was also identified as being rejected; however, this was confirmed in a telephone conference between the Examiner and the undersigned to be a typographical error.) This rejection is respectfully traversed and it is submitted that these claims, in conformance with the foregoing amendment, are in conformance with 35 U.S.C. §101.

Each of these independent claims has been amended hereinabove to clarify those elements which cause the claimed subject matter to be statutory. In claims 7 and 22, the "signal medium" is now expressly recited in the body of the claim as well as in the preamble. In claims 10 and 25, the "recording medium" is now expressly recited in the body of the claim as well as in the preamble. Additionally, the use(s) and function(s) of the constituent elements of the claimed subject matter has been further emphasized. For example: the analog contrast-controlled and

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gain-controlled video signal component represents a portion of a video image for display as a portion of a composite display image on a display device; the analog gain-controlled OSD signal component represents a portion of an OSD image for display as another portion of the composite display image; the reference signal component represents a blanked portion of the composite display image; and the video, OSD and reference signal components are time-division-multiplexed with the video and OSD signal components together forming a visible portion and the reference signal component forming a blanked portion of the composite display image when displayed on the display device.

Hence, it is respectfully submitted that each of these claims recites a useful article of manufacture.

C. §102 & §103 Rejections

Claims 6-8, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto, U.S. Patent No. 5,786,864 ("*Yamamoto*"). (NOTE: Claim 14 was also identified as being rejected; however, this was confirmed in a telephone conference between the Examiner and the undersigned to be a typographical error.) Additionally, claims 21-23, 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yamamoto*. These rejections are respectfully traversed and it is submitted that all of these claims, in conformance with the foregoing amendment, recite subject matter which is patentable over *Yamamoto*.

Independent claims 6-8, 10, 11, 21-23, 25 and 26 have been amended hereinabove to clarify, via more express recitations, one or more distinctions between the presently claimed invention and the subject matter of *Yamamoto*. The presently claimed invention involves an analog multiplexed signal along with its constituent analog signal components. In contrast thereto, the system of *Yamamoto* involves a digital multiplexed signal along with its constituent digital

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signal components. In other words, in the presently claimed invention, a continuous-time multiplexed signal is provided with a novel and non-obvious combination of continuous-time signal components corresponding to image signal display characteristics or parameters (e.g., video image contrast and gain, OSD image gain and a blanking interval reference), as opposed to the system of *Yamamoto* in which a discrete-time multiplexed signal is provided with conventional discrete-time signal components unrelated to image signal display characteristics or parameters (e.g., caption text).

Additionally, independent claims 6-8, 10, 11, 21-23, 25 and 26 have been further amended hereinabove to recite the relationships among the controlled contrast and gains of the video and OSD signal components. More specifically, it is now expressly recited in these claims that the video signal contrast and gain are controlled mutually independently, while the video and OSD signal gains are controlled correspondingly. In other words, the contrast and gain of the video signal component are controlled independently of one another, while the gains of the video and OSD signal components are controlled in a mutually related manner (e.g., using a common gain control stage such as that depicted in Figure 13). *Yamamoto* neither discloses nor suggests such mutual independence and correspondence among such signal components.

D. Allowed Claims

Claims 1-5, 9, 12-20 and 24 are identified as being allowed.

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E. Conclusion

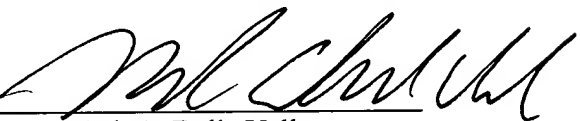
Claims 1-26 remain pending in this case. Based upon the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable, and reconsideration and early allowance of these claims are requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned to further discuss any questions or concerns so as to expedite placement of this application in condition for allowance.

Also, the Examiner is respectfully requested to note that the correspondence address, telephone number and USPTO customer number for the undersigned have changed and are all provided hereinbelow. (Formal notification to the Office is presently in process.)

Respectfully submitted,

VEDDER, PRICE, KAUFMAN & KAMMHOLZ, P.C.

Date: July 11, 2003.

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